

Amend claim 10 in amended form as follows:

Inc 2
10 (Amended). [A] An isolated molecule comprising a complex of a Type I interferon (IFN) and a subunit of the human interferon α/β receptor (IFNAR) which is capable of binding to the Type I IFN of the complex, in which said Type I IFN is bound to said IFNAR by a covalent bond or a peptide bond,

wherein said Type I IFN has a sequence consisting essentially of the sequence of

a) a native Type I IFN;
b) a fragment of a) which has Type I IFN biological agonist activity;

c) a variant of a) or b) which has at least 70% sequence identity with a) or b) and which has Type I IFN biological agonist activity;

B'
d) a variant of a) or b) which is encoded by a DNA sequence which hybridizes to the complement of the native DNA sequence encoding a) or b) under moderately stringent conditions and which has Type I IFN biological agonist activity; or

e) a salt or functional derivative of a), b), c), or d) which has Type I IFN biological agonist activity; and

wherein said IFNAR has a sequence consisting essentially of the sequence of

f) a native human IFNAR polypeptide chain;
g) a fragment of f) which has IFNAR biological activity;

Sub
C2
cont

h) a variant of f) or g) which has at least 70% sequence identity with a) or b) and which has IFNAR biological activity;

B'
cont

i) a variant of f) or g) which is encoded by a DNA sequence which hybridizes to the complement of the native DNA sequence encoding f) or g) under moderately stringent conditions and which has IFNAR biological activity; or

j) a salt or functional derivative of f), g), h), or i) which has IFNAR biological activity.

Claim 22, line 9, after "biological" insert

--agonist--;

line 13, after "biological" insert

--agonist--;

line 17, after "biological" insert

--agonist--;

line 19, after "biological" insert

--agonist--.

-28

Insert new claim 25 as follows:

Sub
C4

25. A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said native human IFNAR polypeptide chain of f) is the extracellular domain of a native human IFNAR polypeptide chain.

B2

--26. A molecule in accordance with claim 10, wherein said native human IFNAR polypeptide chain of f) is the

extracellular domain of a native human IFNAR polypeptide chain.

*Sub
C4
cont*

--27. A pharmaceutical composition in accordance with claim 22, wherein said native human IFNAR polypeptide chain of f) is the extracellular domain of a native human IFNAR polypeptide chain.

*B2
cont*

--28. A method in accordance with claim 3, wherein said native human IFNAR polypeptide chain of a) is the extracellular domain of a native human IFNAR polypeptide chain.

REMARKS

Claims 1-28 presently appear in this case. No claims have been allowed. The official action of October 24, 2000, has now been carefully studied. Reconsideration and allowance are hereby respectfully urged.

Briefly, the present invention relates to the discovery that a complex of interferon and an IFN binding chain of the human interferon α/β receptor (IFNAR) will improve the stability and enhance the potency of the IFN. The complex may be a non-covalent complex or the IFN and the IFNAR may be bound by a covalent bond or a peptide bond, either directly or through a linker.